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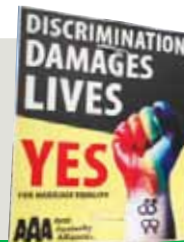
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It's time for Halifax to OBEY

EXPERIMENTAL ART

Convention takes over the city this weekend



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

Halifax is getting ready for another citywide marathon.

From Thursday to Sunday, the eighth annual OBEY Convention is putting on roughly 17 performances from artists and musicians around Canada, the U.S. and Europe that run alongside the Art in Fest event.

"It's a big marathon of experimental ideas in music and art," creative director and co-founder of the convention in 2007, Darcy Spidle, said Thursday.

The collection of performances this weekend spans genres like jazz, punk, electronic, industrial, classical and more taking place in venues such as the Bus Stop Theatre, Khyber Centre, Fort Massey United Church, Halifax Music Co-op, and Menz & Mollyz Bar.

Spidle said headliners include Peter Brötzmann, a "German free-jazz icon" who was a ground breaker in avant-garde music in the 1960s and is still touring the world.

His solo show at Fort Mas-



Darcy Spidle, co-founder of the OBEY Convention, poses for a photo Thursday near the Halifax Central Library. JEFF HARPER/METRO

sey Church will be exciting, Spidle said, as well as one by Winnipeg's Lubomyr Melnyk at the Maritime Conservatory.

"He's the fastest piano player in the world," Spidle said. "He plays this New Age classical style."

The convention usually draws 3,000 or 4,000 people, with half of those coming in

"I think we're a little more adventurous."

OBEY Convention co-founder Darcy Spidle

from outside the city, Spidle said, bringing a sense of com-

munity and "party-esque" atmosphere to Halifax.

A lot of the shows mix multiple mediums like video projections with music, Spidle said, and push "the limits of the genre," while still bringing something for everyone.

There's a free event with poet Tonja Gunvaldsen Klaassen at the Common

Roots Urban Farm Sunday afternoon, as well as a guide to DIY music in Canada on Friday.

Although all the OBEY passes have sold out, Spidle said there are tickets for individual shows available online, along with a schedule at obeyconvention.com, and at Lost and Found on Agricola Street.

+ CAN'T MISS



OBEY headliner Peter Brötzmann CONTRIBUTED

Friday

Peter Brötzmann, Last Lizard at Fort Massey United Church, 7:30 to 9:45 p.m. (\$25)

Container, Ramzi, JFM, DJ Doris, DJ A.S. Pearson at Menz & Mollyz Bar, 10 p.m. to 1 a.m., DJs 1 a.m. to close. (\$15)

Saturday

Weird Canada's quick guide to DIY music in Canada at Halifax North Memorial Library, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. (Free)

Sunday

Tonja Gunvaldsen Klaassen, Laxmi Adhikari at Common Roots Urban Farm, 4:30 to 6 p.m. (Free)

Lubomyr Melnyk, Dream-splottation. Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts, 7:30 to 10 p.m. (\$25)

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CRIME

Photos released in violent robbery

Police in Halifax are releasing photos of a man they say was involved in a violent robbery earlier this week.

On Thursday, Halifax Regional Police released photos from the surveillance video at the Needs convenience store in the 0 to 100 block of Herring Cove Road, where they say two men wearing masks walked in around 5 a.m. Wednesday.

One of the men had a handgun and the other a crowbar. They demanded cash and cigarettes from a woman working behind the counter, police said.

The employee was then grabbed by the suspects and forced around the store, police said in a release.

The men eventually fled after getting cash and cigarettes in a silver, mid-size car with rust on the bottom of the doors.

Police say witnesses saw the car heading towards Withrod Drive.

According to a release, the



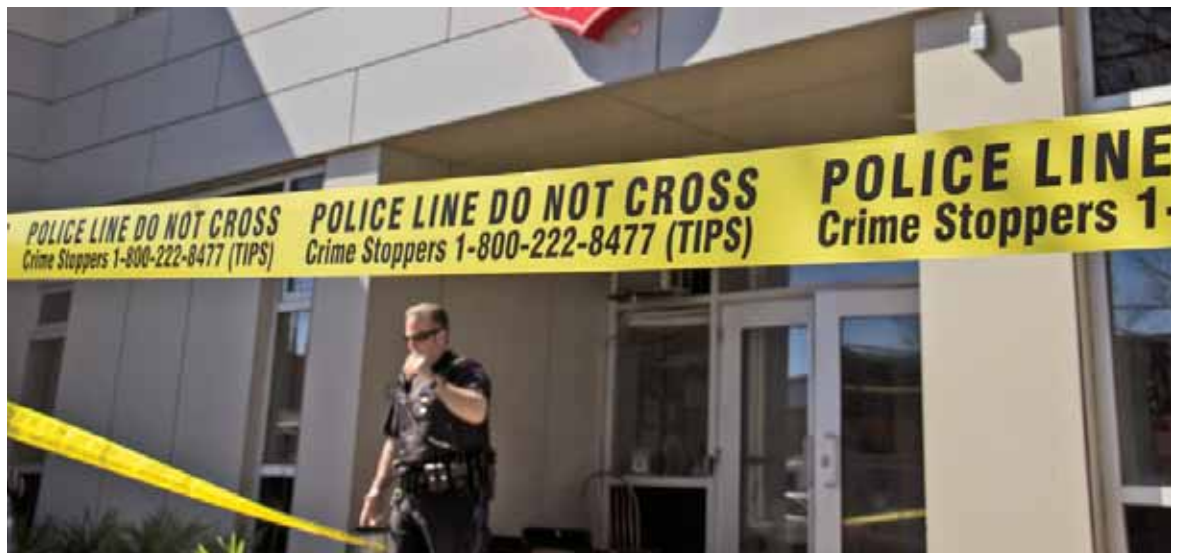
Robbery suspect COURTESY HRP

first man is described as white and in his 50s with a dark moustache and glasses. At the time of the incident, he was wearing a dark jacket, dark toque and reflective vest.

The second man's race is unknown, police said, and his face was covered. He was wearing dark clothing.

The handgun was described as silver with a wooden handle.

Anyone with information on the incident is asked to contact police or Crime Stoppers. METRO



An officer stands outside the Salvation Army on Gottingen Street Thursday after police received a call about a stabbing in the area. JOSH WOOD/FOR METRO

Man arrested in Gottingen stabbing

CRIME

Police searches lead to drug charges

Three men were arrested after two separate drug busts this week.

Halifax Regional Police say Jonathan George Laing, 26, was arrested shortly after 9 p.m. Wednesday following a search of an apartment on Queen Street in Halifax that found cocaine, ecstasy and drug paraphernalia.

Peter George Laing, 20, and Matthew Lawrence Hatfield-

Power, 19, were arrested around midnight after police searched a second apartment on Braemar Drive in Dartmouth. Police say they found cocaine, marijuana and drug paraphernalia there as well.

All the men are facing charges of drug possession and drug trafficking. They were all scheduled to appear in Halifax provincial court on Thursday. METRO

CRIME

Victim and suspect know each other, police say

Heide Pearson
Metro | Halifax

Halifax Regional Police made an arrest Thursday in the stabbing of a 28-year-old man in the

+ NO COMMENT

Metro tried talking to people outside the Salvation Army about the stabbing on Thursday, but no one was willing to speak.

Gottingen Street area.

The suspect, a 38-year-old man, was taken into custody by officers around 2:20 p.m. and was being interviewed by investigators into the evening.

Police responded to a report

of a stabbing on Gottingen Street just before 10 a.m. on Thursday.

It is believed the victim was stabbed in the 5500 block of Cornwallis Street as he was making his way to the Salvation Army on Gottingen Street.

Police spokesman Const. Pierre Bourdages said the victim was taken to hospital by ambulance, and then underwent surgery on Thursday afternoon for the treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

Sidewalks on Gottingen and Cornwallis were roped off as

police conducted their investigation on Thursday morning.

Bourdages said they don't believe the stabbing was a random act, adding that the victim and suspect know each other.

"When it's not random, when people are known to one another, it unfortunately can happen anywhere, including in a very public area," he said. "It's always very concerning to us."

Anyone with information about the stabbing is asked to call police at 902-490-5020 or send an anonymous tip to Crime Stoppers.

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Death inspires task force

ABORIGINAL STUDENTS

Loretta Saunders' murder sparks change



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

Just over a year after her murder, Loretta Saunders' legacy has created change for aboriginal students at Saint Mary's University.

Saunders attended Saint Mary's while working on her thesis about missing and murdered aboriginal women for her honour's sociology degree, and on Thursday, the Halifax school released its President's Task Force Report on Aboriginal Students that includes 17 recommendations.

Dr. Peter Twohig chaired the

task force and said Saunders' murder last February caused the school to reflect on what programs and supports were available to aboriginal students.

"Educational institutions are an important part of the colonial context," Twohig, a professor of history, and Atlantic Canada studies said Thursday.

"If we really want to begin to have transformational change, now's the time to start and we should start in our own house."

Saint Mary's outgoing president, Dr. Colin Dodds, had called for the task force in April and received its report in September, Twohig said.



We need to ... ensure that the faculty reflects the diversity of Canada.

Dr. Peter Twohig

The school has already acted on two recommendations by allotting funding to hire a full-time aboriginal student advisor, and establishing an aboriginal Advisory Council that will review and decide how

to roll out the other points in the report.

From there, Twohig said, it's especially important to set up an



Sharon Armstrong, of Ottawa, takes part in a vigil on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on March 5, 2014, for Loretta Saunders and to call for a national inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Aboriginal Student Centre not only as a place for studying, but somewhere young people can feel comfortable and engage in

cultural practices or have access to aboriginal mentors and staff.

Other recommendations include appointing a univer-

sity elder or elder-in-residence who would provide spiritual and practical support, creating a University Chair in Indigenous Studies, increasing outreach activities to bring younger aboriginal people on campus, acknowledging SMU's spot in the Mi'kma'ki region through campus signs and flying the Mi'kmaq flag outside the McNally Building, and developing courses more relevant to the aboriginal community.

"We're not just talking about courses on the political science ... or history of aboriginal communities," Twohig said.

"Maybe courses in Sobey school that could talk about entrepreneurialism in a reserve context... indigenous science and indigenous ecology."

Increasing the number of professors, experts and visiting speakers from an aboriginal background is important so students can see themselves reflected, Twohig said, which goes for African Nova Scotian or international students as well.

"That can often be a source of inspiration or at least a beginning point for dialogue, and I think it's a wonderful thing," he said.

IN BRIEF

Police say missing 15-year-old girl located

Police in Halifax say they have located a missing 15-year-old Halifax girl who hadn't been seen in more than a week.

Tipi L'Heureux was reported missing on May 14 after she attended school at Citadel High during the day but missed her last class.

On Thursday, police issued a release saying they had gathered new information and said she had been now last seen on the evening of May 15 inside a restaurant on Spring Garden Road in Halifax.

In the same release, police said they believed that L'Heureux was still in Halifax and could be in the area of Spring Garden Road, where she is regularly going to areas with public internet access.

A few hours after issuing the release on Thursday, police sent another update saying the 15-year-old girl had been found safe.

METRO

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SPECIAL OLYMPICS OWNERS SHOW OFF AUTOMOBILE GEMS FOR CHARITY Gary Porter displays his 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air for a Special Olympics fundraiser in the parking lot of Staples on Gottingen Street on Thursday morning. The vintage automobile was one of several on display in the parking lot. JOSH WOOD/FOR METRO

Launch pad for success

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

Ten teams show off their ideas for a chance at \$10K

Rebecca Joseph
For Metro | Halifax

Ten teams, made up of over 30 people gave rapid-fire pitches for their start-up company ideas at the Dalhousie LaunchPad Accelerator unveiling Thursday afternoon.

The teams, which applied for the eight-week course in April, were showing off their winning ideas to professors, industry professionals and their peers at Dalhousie University's Kilm Library in Halifax.

The LaunchPad Accelerator program allows teams to "put the pedal right down to the medal," organizer Mary Kilfoil said.

Kilfoil created the program because she wanted to "bridge the gap" between students work-

ing on a great idea in a university course and getting a successful business idea to market.

To do that, Kilfoil will lead the teams in two months of intensive programming, which includes classes, as well as meetings with mentors from the start-up industry in Halifax. They will also have access to the facilities at Dalhousie University.

Each team will receive \$10,000 in funding, a big incentive for at least one participant.

Justin Javorek is a Dalhousie student and the co-founder of Pet Konekt, an app that connects pet owners with veterinarians in their community. He applied for the LaunchPad program because of the help he and his team will receive.

"With the money, we've been able to get to a developer to work on my product," Javorek said. "We'll be able to have a soft-launch next week."

But the soft-launch is just a stepping stone for him. Javorek plans to use the course to help with a full-launch by the end of the summer.

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A grand donation for new library

MUSIC

Piano valued at \$62,000



Haley Ryan
Metro|Halifax

The Halifax Central Library's newest addition looks to be key to having a "proper" music hall. On Wednesday, the library

welcomed a \$62,000 grand piano donated by local philanthropist and musician Peggy Corkum.

Kasia Morrison, spokeswoman for Halifax Public Libraries, said Corkum is a friend of one of the system's librarians and was trying to think of the best way to support the new library.

"[She] knew that the hall needed a piano," Morrison said about Corkum's musical donation, now in its new home at the

Paul O'Regan Hall.

The polished Yamaha instrument was brought over from Halifax's Doctor Piano, Morrison said, adding the space is "kind of like a proper hall now" with the addition of a piano.

The instrument helps set O'Regan Hall apart as an attractive space since musicians who play piano are often limited when looking at venues, Morrison said.



Now there's one more venue in Halifax that's properly set up for great music performances.

Kasia Morrison, with Halifax Public Libraries



The grand piano inside the Halifax Central Library. CONTRIBUTED

Stolen bikes going on auction block

Do I hear \$20?

The RCMP in Halifax are hosting a bike auction on Saturday to support its volunteer youth program.

The bikes being auctioned off are those that police say were stolen, but never reclaimed by their owners after a set period of time.

Police say after the period of time passes, the unclaimed bikes get put up for auction.

Saturday's bike auction will run from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Mic Mac Mall in the lower parking lot closest to Highway 111.

A bicycle viewing will run

+ CONTACT

Police say anyone looking for a missing or stolen bicycle should call the police agency closest to where their bike was last seen.

from 10 a.m. until 10:30, with the cash-and-carry auction starting immediately after.

All proceeds from the auction will go in support of the RCMP Stetsons and Spurs Youth Program. METRO

COMMITTEE

Public meeting for skateboard park

The public can learn more about a new Dartmouth skateboard park at a public meeting next week.

The park is being built on the Dartmouth Common, across from the Dartmouth Sportsplex, a location chosen from a site selection process that took place in 2012.

The meeting is planned for

Wednesday beginning at 6 p.m. in the Valardo Room at the Dartmouth Sportsplex.

A release from the city says officials from the municipality and Grindline, which is designing and helping to build the skate park, will discuss the project's background and proposed design. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation. METRO

DARTMOUTH

City seeks input on arts and culture

The city said Thursday its looking for eight people from the public at a large, as well as folks with experience and knowledge of the local industry, to become members of its ArtsHalifax Advisory Committee.

Council established the new committee at a May 12 meeting, according to an HRM news release, "with a mandate to provide advice to staff on the development of policies that support Halifax's professional arts and culture sector."

+ HOW TO APPLY

Interested citizens can apply by mailing city hall or emailing clerks@halifax.ca. The deadline is May 29.

Applications "should be prepared to ... participate in a positive manner" in forming recommendations for municipal government, the release said.

METRO

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IN BRIEF

Mounties investigate suspicious fire at Pictou Landing

RCMP are investigating a suspicious cottage fire in Pictou Landing last week after discovering several nearby cottages had been vandalized.

On the morning of May 14, RCMP and the Pictou Landing Fire Department responded to a blaze on Rustico Lane that destroyed the cottage.

Further investigation by police found several nearby cottages had been broken into and vandalized. The Provincial Fire Marshal's Office was called in to assist with the investigation and has deemed the fire to be suspicious.

The RCMP are asking anyone who has information about this investigation to contact the Pictou County District RCMP office at (902) 755-4141. TC MEDIA

OUTREACH

N.S. provides funds for youth programs

Programs to help troubled youth in Nova Scotia are getting \$225,000 from the province to hire five new outreach workers in Dartmouth, Truro, Kentville, Whitney Pier and East Preston.

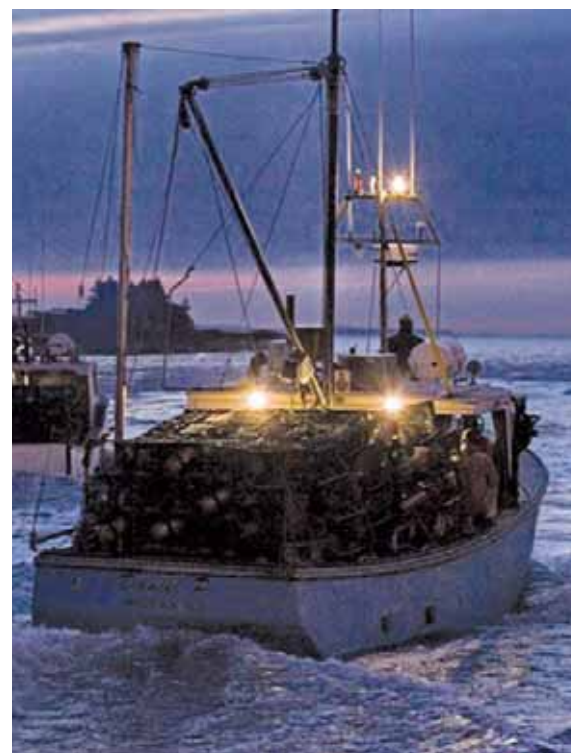
Another \$25,000 will go to the Educational Program Innovations Charity in Sydney.

The government says the position being created in East Preston as part of the Youth Outreach

Program will mark the first time an outreach worker has been hired in an African-Nova Scotian community.

This brings the total number of youth outreach workers in the province to 13.

The grant for the youth peer centre in Sydney will be used to recruit and train volunteers, as well as fund a study on the program's impact. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Fishing boats loaded with lobster traps head out from the harbour in West Dover on Nov. 30, 2009. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Some buyers may approve lobster levy

LEGISLATION

Fisheries minister says marketing fee a 'bit complex'

A significant part of Nova Scotia's most lucrative lobster fishery could soon be on board with some sort of lobster marketing levy, says Fisheries Minister Keith Colwell.

Colwell said Thursday that buyers on the southwestern shore have agreed to pay a fee, although the structure and amount is yet to be determined.

"It's going to be a little bit complex to get it all in place, but at least this is the first breakthrough we've had," said Colwell.

Many in the industry maintain getting Canada's largest lobster fishery to accept the levy is key to getting the proposed marketing initiative off the ground.

The area accounts for 40 per cent of the country's total catch.

To date there has been resistance to a levy or fee and Colwell said fishermen still

+ BACKGROUND

The provincial government introduced legislation last month that would allow it to collect a fee through regulations once the lobster industry decides what form the fee will take.

haven't agreed to the idea.

But he said the fee could move ahead without them after consultations are concluded with the buyers.

"We haven't established the amount," Colwell said. "But they (buyers) are talking about the same amount of money, which would be close to \$2 million."

As for the overall status of the initiative, Colwell said fishing organizations in eastern Nova Scotia are in favour of a levy, while buyers in the western part of the province are interested in paying a fee as part of a licensing agreement.

He said given the complexities involved, it's likely a new fee won't be in place until some time next year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Oil leak from derelict vessel contained

MV MINER

Coast Guard monitoring area by air for signs of oil

About 800 litres of oil was collected after a leak occurred during demolition of the wreck of the MV Miner off Cape

Breton's Scaterie Island, says the province's transportation minister.

Geoff MacLellan said Thursday that the oil was inside an engine that was being removed from the derelict vessel during work on Sunday.

"They (workers) cut away a particular section ... and there was one particular pipe that was seeping the oil," said MacLellan.

He said a small portion of the oil leaked into the water, although it's not known how much.

"We don't have a specific number," he said. "It was a sheen on top of the water, so it was very limited."

He said no heavy oil got past containment booms that were close to the wreck and the lobster fishery in the area was not affected.

The government says RJ MacIsaac Construction was planning to remove the last remaining engine from the wreck and it expected oil could be a risk to the environment.

The province says the Canadian Coast Guard and Transport Canada were notified of the leak and the coast guard is monitoring the area by air for signs of oil.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



The view from the top deck of the MV Miner shows the work site on Scaterie Island last year. CAPE BRETON POST

CHARGES

Man shows up for court date with drugs in pocket

A 63-year-old Nova Scotia man has learned that a quick check of his coat pockets would have made a difference in the length of the house arrest he will serve.

John Francis Earl of Stellarton was visiting the courthouse in December to answer to charges of trafficking marijuana and possession of unstamped tobacco when sheriffs asked him, along with everyone entering the courthouse that day, to empty their pockets and walk through a screening device.

In doing so, he pulled out two marijuana buds, wrapped in foil and equalling more than two grams, out of one of his coat pockets. He was arrested at the courthouse and a new charge of possession was added to the court docket.

"I didn't know it was there," he told the court this week.

As a result of the December arrest, Crown attorney Bronwyn Duffy said any consideration that she was giving toward a 12-month conditional sentence with six months' house arrest was increased to 12 months' house arrest to address Earl's disregard for the law.

Duffy said the Pictou County Street Crime Unit first executed a warrant on a Stellarton home on Aug. 12, 2014, after it received a tip that drugs were being sold from the residence.

Earl was at the home and arrested and a search of the place turned up a small amount of cash, 58 grams of

+ BACKGROUND

Defence lawyer Stephen Robertson said alcohol abuse has gotten the best of his client and has caused him to lose employment.

He said his client forgot the drugs were in his coat pocket, but he agreed with the Crown's recommendation that such a charge warranted a tough sentence.

marijuana in a freezer, eight grams in a chest that was dined into five packages, six grams on Earl as well as 185 unstamped cigarettes in the kitchen, 129 unstamped cigarettes in the bedroom, another nine unstamped cigarettes in another part of the home as well as one scale.

He was charged with trafficking and possession of unstamped tobacco and given an upcoming court date.

Duffy said Earl was cooperative with police, entered early guilty pleas, and accepted responsibility for the drugs, but suffers from memory loss which resulted in his pre-sentence report being vague.

She said she was ready to recommend a 12-month conditional sentence with six months' house arrest until his second arrest for drug possession a few months later.

TC MEDIA

"That was the first time I put the coat on after they raided the house. I didn't know it was there or I wouldn't have taken it."

John Francis Earl

Notice to Halifax Water Customers



Halifax Water is in a labour disruption following strike action by CUPE Locals 227 and 1431. Management and non-union Halifax Water staff are making every effort to ensure that the essential water, wastewater and stormwater services you depend on are provided.

Below is a list of contact numbers for water, wastewater, and stormwater service, as well as bill payment locations that will remain available throughout this labour disruption.

Halifax Water Services - Contact Information

Customer Service	902-490-4820
24 Hour Emergency Water Service	902-490-6940
24 Hour Emergency Wastewater/Stormwater Service	311

Halifax Municipality Customer Service Centre Bill Payment Locations

Acadia Centre	636 Sackville Drive Lower Sackville, NS B4C 2S3	8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday
Alderney Gate	40 Alderney Drive, 2nd Floor Dartmouth, NS B2Y 2N5	8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday
Bayer's Road	7071 Bayers Road, 2nd Floor Towers Halifax, NS B3L 4P3	8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday
Musquodoboit Harbour	7900 Highway #7 Musquodoboit Harbour, NS B0J 2L0	8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday
Scotia Square	5201 Duke Street Halifax, NS B3J 1N9	8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday

Halifax Water's Head Office at 450 Cowie Hill Rd. will be closed to the public throughout this labour disruption.

Bill payments can be made online via EPost (visit www.halifaxwater.ca); mail to PO Box 8388 RPO CSC, Halifax, NS B3K 5M1; at all Halifax Municipality Customer Service Centres; and through most financial institutions. For more information on Halifax Water, including updated information regarding this labour disruption, please visit www.halifaxwater.ca

Girl's wish is their command

GIVING BACK

Volunteers host soccer tourney for sick child, 4

Heide Pearson
For Metro | Halifax

Mohammad AlSaleh wants to give back to a community where he's come to feel at home.

He and his partner at Global Group International, Dallas Kirchmayer, looked to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Canada to find a way for international students to give back to the Nova Scotia community.

"This country, really, it's like my (home). Nice people, friendly people," AlSaleh said. "They deal with me as if I'm a part of them, so we got this idea. Let's be a part (of the community)."

AlSaleh and Kirchmayer decided to "adopt a wish" through Make-A-Wish, mean-

ing they adopt a specific child's wish to grant. Their adopt-a-wish child is Elizabeth Williams, a four-year-old girl from Winsdor born with a life-threatening medical condition called hypoplastic left heart syndrome, which affects normal blood flow through. Elizabeth has undergone several cardiac operations and procedures since birth.



I'm getting excited to just see [Elizabeth] smile.

Dallas Kirchmayer

AlSaleh and Kirchmayer have organized a soccer tournament that will be held Friday from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. at BMO Soccer Centre to raise money for Elizabeth's wish, which the girl hasn't decided upon yet.

Teams of international students from universities across the city, including AlSaleh's school, the Canadian Language Learning College, will play in the tournament.

All proceeds will go toward the \$10,000 goal of granting



Mohammad AlSaleh and Dallas Kirchmayer of Global Group International are hosting a soccer tournament Friday at the BMO Soccer Centre to help raise funds for the Atlantic branch of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Canada. PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO

Elizabeth's wish. Kirchmayer and AlSaleh look forward to meeting Elizabeth at the tournament.

"I feel like we've taken

her in as kind of part of (our) family, even though we haven't met her yet, so I'm getting excited to just see her smile," Kirchmayer said.

Elizabeth's mom, Christianne Williams, said her daughter is thinking about choosing a Disneyland trip as her wish.



Elizabeth Williams, 4, was born with a life-threatening medical condition. CONTRIBUTED

For Global Group International, the tournament is also about having students from around the world who have come to Halifax give back to the community that has become their own.

"I believe ... everyone should help each other," AlSaleh said.

"(Elizabeth) has this problem. I can help her, she can help her, you can help her — let's do it."



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Spuds, with nails inside, found in N.S.

FOOD

Police say no connection to P.E.I. incidents found yet



Philip Croucher
Metro | Halifax

Nova Scotia police are investi-

gating potential food-tampering incidents after they say metal objects were found in potatoes bought at two different grocery stores.

Provincial RCMP said Thursday that in late April or early May, a man purchased a bag of Farmers Market potatoes at the Atlantic Superstore in Antigonish, and he notified police this week that he had found a nail inside a potato.

After turning the potato and nail over to Antigonish RCMP,

police in Barrington Passage became aware of a similar incident at the No Frills grocery store in that community. No one was injured in either incident, an RCMP news release said.

"Our focus is public safety and it's concerning that someone would want to do this," RCMP spokesman Sgt. Alain LeBlanc said Thursday.

"The message here to people is if they find any foreign objects in potatoes, it's important they

keep the potato and keep the bag and inform police."

Nails being found in potatoes isn't new to the Maritimes. Last fall in P.E.I. there were several incidents across the province.

"At this time there is no evidence to suggest that these are connected to the P.E.I. incidents in the fall," LeBlanc said.

A customer turned a potato with a metal object in it to Mounties in P.E.I. as recently as May 18. WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS



If you find a foreign object in a potato, save both the potato and the bag and inform police. GETTY IMAGES

POLICE

Spike in violent crime, stats show

There's good and bad news from the first quarter crime statistics released Thursday by Halifax Regional Police.

On the plus side, overall crime was down eight per cent when compared with the first quarter of 2014, the statistics released Thursday indicate.

But on the downward end, violent crime spiked by 11 per cent, thanks in large part to a 40 per cent jump in robberies and an 11 per cent increase in assaults.

There were four homicides, an increase compared to 2014 which saw three.

Attempted murders dropped by half, down two from four, according to the police report.

Another big spike came in



Police respond to a call on Rodney Terrace in Dartmouth earlier this year. METRO FILE

prostitution arrests, with 19 incidents occurring in the first quarter this year, compared with eight in the first three months of 2014.

When it comes to big decreases, overall property crime was down 21 per cent and stolen motor vehicle cases dropped 11 per cent.

METRO

93%

Halifax police say assaults accounted for 93 per cent of the total reported violent crimes in the first quarter of 2015.

CRIME

New charges for N.B. man already in jail



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

A New Brunswick man already in jail for several property offences is facing three more charges in relation to a Dartmouth jewelry store theft.

On March 29, a man looking at a gold chain and loose diamonds in a Mic Mac Mall jewelry store suddenly fled with the items, Halifax Regional Police said Thursday.

Both Halifax RCMP and Halifax Regional Police officers arrested the man May 13 as he attempted to sell stolen items at a pawn shop on Windmill Road in Dartmouth, according to an HRP news release.

He was also found in possession of a stolen car that had been taken from Québec in early April.

Marc-Joseph Pellerin, 42, of Sainte-Marie-de-Kent, N.B., appeared in court last Thursday to face 29 charges, including multiple counts of possessing stolen property over \$5,000, careless use of a firearm, and breaking and entering to commit theft, related to crimes over the last month in jewelry, pawn and coin shops in Dartmouth and Chester.

In relation to the Mic Mac Mall theft, Pellerin faces charges of theft over \$5,000, possession of stolen property, breach of an undertaking, and trafficking in property obtained by crime.

Pellerin remains in custody at the Burnside jail and will return to court May 26.

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WEATHER SUNNY SKIES BRING OUT MUSIC LOVERS A man enjoys the beautiful weather by playing his banjo in the Public Gardens on Thursday. Temperatures reached close to 20 C under mostly sunny skies. JOSH WOOD/FOR METRO

Emera eyes tidal power

BAY OF FUNDY

New turbine will withstand currents, says company chief

The president of Emera says the energy company will have two underwater turbines generating power from the tides of the Bay of Fundy by the end of the year.

Chris Huskison says the turbines will be built in Nova Scotia, and the contract for their construction will be announced within the next few weeks.

Speaking at Emera's annual shareholders' meeting in Saint John, N.B., Huskison said each of the turbines will generate about two megawatts of electricity.

He said it could be two decades before installation of the 150 turbines that would be needed to generate 300 megawatts of power.

The turbines will be installed near Parrsboro, N.S.

Nova Scotia Power tested an OpenHydro turbine in 2009 but it was heavily damaged by the Bay of Fundy's powerful currents.

Huskison said they now have a better understanding of the power of the bay, and the unit has been redesigned.

He said OpenHydro's parent company — DCNS — is standing behind the design.

"They are guaranteeing that this will work for us. They are a very big company with a very strong balance sheet, so that is part of how we are assured it will work," he said.

He said 70 per cent of the construction work will be done in the Maritimes, with the majority of that work being done in Nova Scotia.

Huskison said once the technology is proven in Nova Scotia, local companies should be able to then market it elsewhere around the world.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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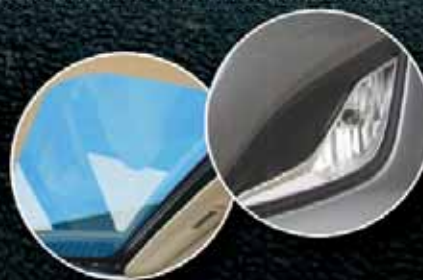
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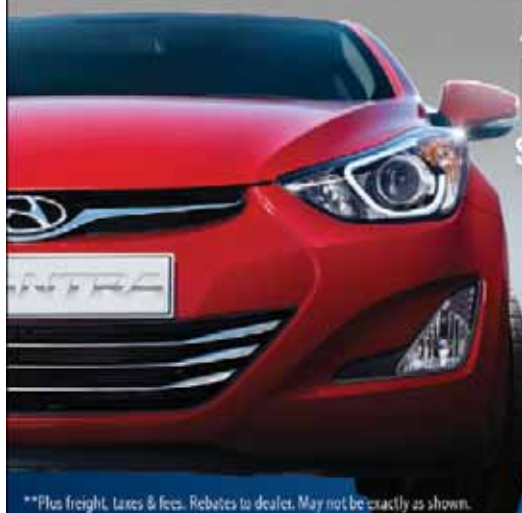
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There can be no reason to join terrorists: PM

PUBLIC SAFETY

Harper heralds new funding to keep closer eye on suspects

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says there is "no legitimate reason of any kind" for Canadians to become involved in jihadist or terrorist movements.

Harper was in Montreal on Thursday to announce funds for the RCMP and the Canada Border Services Agency in the fight against terrorism.

The RCMP will receive \$150.4 million over five years, beginning in 2015-16, and \$46.8 million a year after, with the money going to help the Mounties conduct terrorism-related criminal investigations.

The border-services agency will get \$5.4 million over five years and \$1.1 million annually in subsequent years, with some of the funds earmarked for identifying high-risk travellers.

While the Prime Minister's Office described the money as "new" and "additional," the Finance Department said later the funds had been announced in the recent federal budget but that the specific details outlined on Thursday for the RCMP and the CBSA were new.

Harper was speaking at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Inter-



Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks during an announcement in Montreal on Thursday.

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

national Airport, where 10 youths were arrested last weekend after being suspected of wanting to leave Canada to join jihadist groups.

"Obviously we have great sympathy for the families affected, but let us be clear: we have a great country here. We have a country that is unparalleled in terms of its freedom,



It is no secret this is an ongoing battle. (ISIL) poses a great threat.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper

its democracy, its openness and its tolerance," the prime minister told reporters after making his announcement.

"And there is no legitimate reason of any kind in this

country for someone to become a violent jihadist or a terrorist or to join any kind of group that is involved (in) or advocates that kind of activity.

"It is totally unacceptable

to Canada and Canadians and unacceptable to this government."

Violent jihadism is not a future trend but a current reality in Canada and around the world, Harper said, adding that the funds will be important in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

In recent days, ISIL militants have been on the advance, seizing the city of Ramadi in Iraq and the central Syrian town of Palmyra.

Defence Minister Jason Kenney has described the fall of Ramadi as a setback for the Iraqi military, but added it shouldn't be seen as a sign the coalition is losing the fight against ISIL.

Harper was asked in general about such advances and what the implications are for coalition forces.

"The reason the international community has intervened in Iraq is the serious threat that (ISIL) poses," he replied.

"We've had some successes, but at the same time it is no secret this is an ongoing battle, this organization poses a great threat and continues to pose a great threat, obviously to security in Iraq and Syria.

"But as long as it has a substantial territory it is occupying, it will want to use that as a base from which to launch terrorist attacks against this country." THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Feds fail to stop challenge over Senate vacancies

The federal government has lost a bid to thwart a court challenge aimed at compelling Prime Minister Stephen Harper to fill Senate vacancies.

The case was launched by Vancouver lawyer Aniz Alani, who maintains the unfilled vacancies are unconstitutional, leaving provinces under-represented and the Senate less able to carry out its constitutional role as the chamber of sober second thought.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Conservatives snub talks with debate broadcasters

The game of election debate chicken continues.

The Liberals, NDP, Greens and Bloc have reached an agreement in principle with the TV consortium that has traditionally organized the debates. The Conservatives were not at a meeting Thursday with the broadcasters. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Supreme Court rules on lack of aboriginal jurors

The manslaughter conviction of an aboriginal man should not be overturned because of a lack of aboriginal jurors, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled Thursday.

In a 5-2 decision, the court found that an Ontario community made reasonable efforts to ensure the jury had adequate aboriginal representation — and that what matters is the effort, not the ultimate result.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Packaged meat is seen at a grocery store on Tuesday in Montreal. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada wins beef dispute

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

WTO rules against U.S.'s country-of-origin labels

Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz says it's time for the United States to come to terms with country-of-origin labelling rules.

The World Trade Organization ruled Monday that the U.S. labelling requirement, known as COOL, violates that country's trade obligations. It said the labels put Canadian and Mexican livestock at a disadvantage and rejected a U.S. appeal following a similar ruling last year.

"The rules have been adjudicated, the U.S. was found offside and now it's up to them to find the fix that makes us happy," Ritz said Thursday. "We're now driving the bus;

we're not under it any more. So we'll see at the end of the day."

A committee of the U.S. House of Representatives has already voted to repeal the law, which requires labels that say where animals were born, raised and slaughtered.

Canada will probably be able to impose retaliatory tariffs against the United States by late summer or early fall if Washington doesn't repeal COOL rules.

"If they don't come up with the fix to COOL, like repealing it, then that's our Plan B," said Ritz.

Canada and Mexico opposed the law because it causes their animals to be segregated from animals born in the U.S. It's a costly process that has forced some U.S. companies to stop buying exports.

Congress made the labels mandatory in 2002 and 2008 farm legislation, mostly at the behest of northern U.S. ranchers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ALBERTA

Mad cow cause 'a needle in a haystack'

Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz says investigators are narrowing down how an Alberta cow was infected with BSE.

The beef breeding cow was discovered last winter on a farm near Edmonton and was born on a nearby farm.

Another cow born at the same location in 2004 tested

positive for mad cow disease in 2010.

Ritz says investigators are looking for other animals that also might have been infected and any feed supplies that might be the cause.

He said it's like looking for a needle in a haystack.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CANADA POST

NDP pledges to restore home mail delivery

Canada Post's plan to end home mail delivery would become a dead letter if the NDP were to win the federal election this fall.

The post office is in the second year of a controversial five-year plan to phase out door-to-door delivery for more than five million households.

Alexandre Boulerice, the NDP's post office critic, says a New Democrat government

would terminate the phase-out plan and restore service to those households that have already lost their home mail delivery.

The announcement follows a decision earlier this week by some Montreal-area mayors to join a court challenge against the phase-out of home delivery.

The mayors argue the move is unconstitutional and are hoping to turn it into a federal

election issue.

The court challenge is spearheaded by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers but several groups representing seniors and disabled Canadians have joined it.

Canada Post argues that the move is necessary for the Crown Corporation to remain financially sustainable as the volume of mail declines. It is also cutting up to 8,000 jobs.

However, the NDP maintains the move is unnecessary and means Canada is en route to becoming the only major industrialized country without any home mail delivery.

Canada Post turned a profit of \$194 million before tax last year. In 2013, the year in which it announced the phase-out of home delivery, the post office posted a before-tax loss of \$125 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS

TOP-HEAVY HALIFAX WATER WANTS TO ROLL BACK WORKERS' PENSIONS

The Halifax Regional Water Commission (HRWC) — which the Municipal Auditor General has described as being heavily stacked with managers — is trying to dramatically roll back its employees' pension benefits.

In his May, 2013 report, Auditor General Larry Munroe found that HRWC had an unusually high number of managers, most of whom supervise three or fewer employees.

Saying he hoped his audit would lead to questions about whether those positions were the best use of public resources, here's what else Munroe reported to Halifax Council:

- Halifax Water's compensation, job descriptions and the experience required for certain positions had a wide range and didn't always match the salary range that would be in place if that same person was working out of city hall.

- Halifax Water's finance director has essentially the same salary range as the municipality's director of finance and information, communications and technology (\$135,000 to \$165,000 a year), even though HRM is a significantly larger, more complex organization with direct responsibility for both Halifax Metro Centre and Halifax Regional Water Commission.

- Halifax Water has double the number of financial managers as it does other managers.

To read the report yourself, go here: www.halifax.ca/AuditorGeneral/documents/ABCsadministrativefunctionsReport.pdf

Add to this the questionable travel all over the globe of senior managers at Halifax Water (trips have included China, India, The Netherlands and more) and ratepayers may be left wondering why frontline workers' pensions have suddenly become the target of 'fiscal restraint.'



HANDS OFF OUR PENSIONS!

A message from CUPE Locals 227 and 1431



CUPE

SCIENCE

Researchers turn blood into nerve cells

It could be called a “sensational” discovery: Canadian scientists have figured out how to turn a simple blood sample into a variety of nerve cells, including those that are responsible for pain, numbness and, yes, sensation.

The technology will allow researchers to test potential pain-killing drugs in the lab, using an individual's own nerve cells, said Mick Bhatia, who led the team of scientists at McMaster

University.

“Now we can take easy to obtain blood samples and make the main cell types of neurological systems — the central nervous system and the peripheral nervous system — in a dish that is specialized for each patient,” said Bhatia, director of McMaster's Stem Cell and Cancer Research Institute.

“Nobody has ever done this with adult blood,” he said from Hamilton.

The technique involves extracting stem cells from blood, which are then converted into neural stem cells using a patented technique. These stem cells are then manipulated in the lab to give rise to several types of nerve cells, including those that make up the peripheral nervous system throughout the arms, legs and the rest of the body.

“So we take a cell whose identity — its name, address, what it does as a blood cell — we tell it to

forget all of that, and we educate it to become a neural cell,” said Bhatia, likening the process to turning a lawyer into a surgeon.

By exposing the cells to different chemical agents in lab dishes and seeing how they react, the researchers hope to discover new pain drugs that take aim only at the peripheral nervous system, while not affecting the brain and the rest of the central nervous system.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



This undated file photo shows al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan. A Calgary academic's book was among the titles found in bin Laden's Pakistani compound when he was killed by special forces in 2011. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Prof was on bin Laden's bookshelf

TERRORISM

Canuck writer 'sure' terrorist would have disliked tome

Your average book-writing academic might be delighted to have a celebrity reader.

Barry Cooper's case is a little different.

He's far less gracious when asked about a famous person who apparently owned his book: “If I had a chance to kill him,” the Canadian political scientist says, “I would’ve.”

His famous reader was supposedly Osama bin Laden.

According to a newly declassified list from the U.S. government, the terrorist leader had 39 English-language books in his Pakistani compound when he was killed by special forces in 2011.

One of those books was written by Cooper. Bin Laden's library apparently included the University of Calgary professor's, *New Political Religions*, or an *Analysis of Modern Terrorism*.

Cooper didn't believe it when a journalist first called him this week to share the news. He teaches political philosophy, not counter-terrorism, and responded skeptically: “I thought it was a hoax.”

He has no idea whether bin

Laden actually read the book. But he's quite sure he wouldn't have enjoyed its unsympathetic view of terrorism's causes.

“I'm sure he didn't like it if he did read it — I can take some comfort in that.”

Cooper's book argues that terrorists intentionally distort religion to justify their acts — and that they're well aware that they're making up excuses.

It examines a variety of groups beyond al-Qaida, including the Japanese group Aum Shinrikyo and what Cooper calls its off-the-wall interpretation of the Tibetan Book of the Dead. Cooper says terrorists know their acts are morally and spiritually wrong.

Bin Laden's book collection ranged from mainstream authors, like Bob Woodward's book *Obama's Wars*, to academics like Yale's Paul Kennedy and his *Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, to more marginal conspiracy theorists like Eustace Mullins', *The Secrets of the Federal Reserve*.

Cooper's book found in bin Laden's library was one of about 30 the political scientist has written. He says it stemmed from a talk he gave in April 2001 in the U.S. After the 9-11 terrorist attacks, a colleague suggested he turn the lecture into a book.

What does he hope bin Laden got from it?

“A little self-recognition of what a jerk he is.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MIGRANT CRISIS

Malaysia searches for lost boat people

Four Malaysian navy ships began searching the seas for stranded boat people Thursday, in the first official rescue operation since desperate migrants started washing onto Southeast Asia's shores, and a formerly reluctant Myanmar agreed to attend a regional meeting aimed at easing the crisis.

Thousands of Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar and Bangladeshis are believed to be trapped on boats with little food or water — some after being pushed back by the navies of at least three countries — and the international community has warned that time to save them is running out.

The announcement Thursday by Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak was the latest in a series of break-

throughs, including an offer by his country and Indonesia to provide temporary shelter to the desperate men, women and children until a more permanent solution is found.

He said he had ordered his navy and coast guard to conduct search-and-rescue efforts for other boats.

"We have to prevent loss of life," he tweeted.

Navy chief Abdul Aziz Jaafar said four vessels had been deployed, and three helicopters and three other ships were on standby.

Myanmar, which earlier hinted it would skip a regional meeting in Thailand next week bringing together representatives of more than a dozen nations, changed course Thursday, saying it would attend.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYRIA

ISIL takes ancient site of Palmyra

Fears mounted over the fate of one of the Mideast's most prominent archeological sites after ISIL militants overran the historic Syrian town of Palmyra, seizing control Thursday of its temples, tombs and colonnades within hours.

The takeover also expanded the extremists' hold, making them the single group controlling the most territory in Syria.

"The Syrian regime appears to be in terminal decline, and the Islamic State (of Iraq and the Levant), in its timing, is capitalizing on recent losses by government forces in the north and south," said Amr Al-Azm, an antiquities expert and professor at Shawnee State University in Ohio.

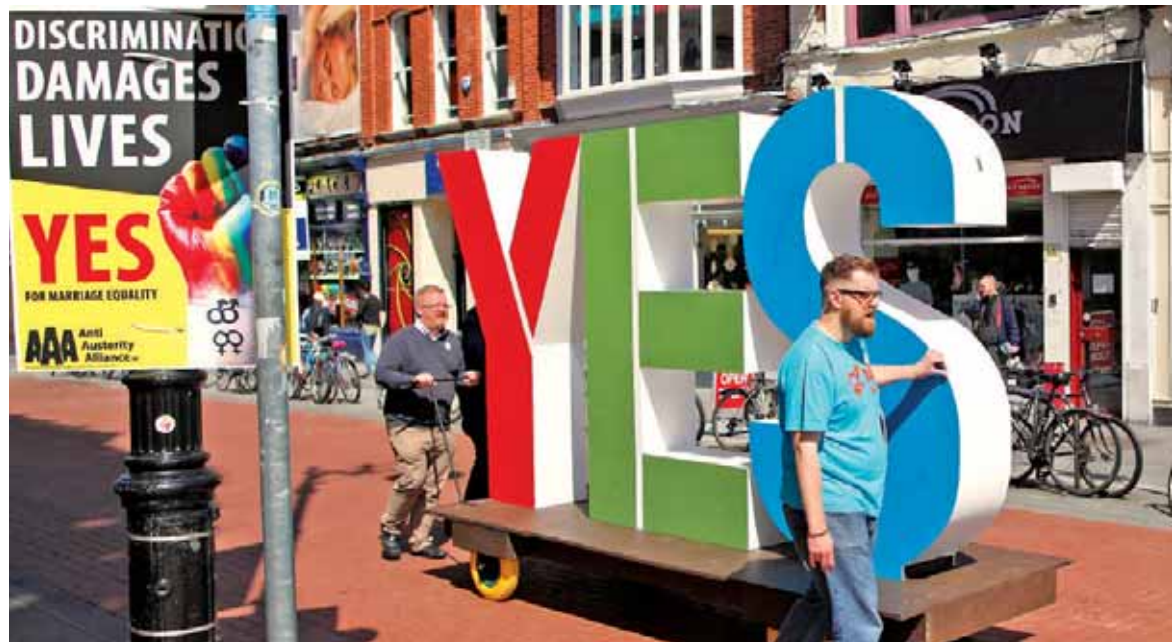
The militants overran the famed archeological site early

Thursday, just hours after seizing the nearby town in central Syria, activists and officials said.

They also captured Palmyra's airport and the notorious Tadmur prison, delivering a startling new defeat for President Bashar Assad, whose forces quickly retreated. Hundreds of Palmyra residents fled the town of 65,000, and many more were trying to escape, said Talal Barazi, the governor of central Homs province.

An oasis set in the Syrian desert, Palmyra is a strategic crossroads linking the capital Damascus and cities to the east and the west. Its capture raised alarm over some of the world's most important ancient ruins, whose fate remained unknown Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Members of the Yes Equality campaign begin canvassing Thursday in the centre of Dublin, Ireland. People from across the Republic of Ireland will vote Friday in a referendum on the legalization of gay marriage, a vote that pits the power of the Roman Catholic Church against the secular-minded Irish government of Enda Kenny. PETER MORRISON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Premier to Ireland: Vote for gay marriage

REFERENDUM

Opinion polls suggest Yes side will win

Prime Minister Enda Kenny is urging Ireland's voters to support the legalization of gay marriage in a referendum that pits the power of the Catholic Church against his secular-minded government.

Speaking on the eve of Friday's nationwide vote, Kenny said Ireland could "create history" by becoming the first nation to cast a popular vote for gay marriage.

Kenny said voters' approval of a constitutional amendment to legalize gay marriage would represent an Irish civil rights breakthrough "that for generations gay people could never imagine."

"The 'Yes' will obliterate, publicly, the remaining barriers of prejudice or the irrational fear of the 'them' and 'us' in this regard," said Kenny, a devout Catholic who nonetheless during his four years in power has pushed to reduce the church's influence on policy and state services.

Eight opinion polls taken since the campaign opened in March suggest that the "Yes"



My voting 'No' is not a vote against gay and lesbian people. It's against changing the definition of marriage.

Dublin Archbishop
Diarmuid Martin

campaign should win. Kenny's government is holding a referendum because it's considered legally necessary to

add an explicit amendment to the country's 1937 constitution before lawmakers can pass the relevant legislation.

All political parties and most lawmakers are on the "Yes" side. That lopsided reality, common in Irish referendums, has rebounded in previous contests when some voters, confused by the issue at hand or alienated from the political establishment, voted "No" in protest.

Catholic leaders and conservative pressure groups are arguing that legalization could produce surprising repercussions in Irish courts that could undermine traditional marriages. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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**WALRUS CAM VIDEO STREAM UP AND RUNNING AFTER A DECADE OF DORMANCY**

A popular webcam showing male Pacific walrus lying on the beach is once again streaming on the Internet. The high-definition stream from Alaska's remote Round Island had been dormant for nearly a decade after private funding ran out. But thanks to the philanthropic organization explore.org, the cam is again up and running. COURTESY EXPLORE.ORG

SPAIN**Boy granted temporary residency**

The Spanish government on Thursday granted a temporary residence permit to an 8-year-old Ivory Coast boy that a woman tried to smuggle into Spain in a suitcase.

Adou Ouattara was discovered when police scanned the suitcase May 7 in Ceuta, a Spanish city enclave in North Africa.

The Interior Ministry's office in the city said the boy's residence permit is for a year.

Police images of the scanned case shocked many and seemed to highlight the harrowing plight of migrants trying to reach Europe.

The boy's father, who lives legally with the mother in

Spain, was arrested on charges of human rights abuse for trying to have the boy smuggled into the country.

His lawyer, Francesco Luca Caronna, says the man knew nothing of the plan, believing the son was to be brought in by car with a visa he paid for abroad. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elephant selfie goes global**PHOTOGRAPHY****Unexpected encounter leads to world's first 'elphie'**

A British Columbia man got the vacation photo of a lifetime in Thailand — and he can't even take credit for it.

Christian LeBlanc was feeding an elephant when the animal grabbed his GoPro camera, set to continuous shooting, and snapped a photo with its trunk.

The snapshot, which LeBlanc is calling the world's first elephant selfie — or "elphie" — has gone viral after the 22-year-old recently posted it on Instagram.

The University of British Columbia student and his girlfriend were travelling on the island of Koh Phangan two months ago when they came across a couple of elephants.

LeBlanc says baskets of bananas were being sold for 50 cents to feed the pachyderms, but one of the elephants became touchy when they ran



Christian LeBlanc, a 22-year-old from B.C., says he was feeding this elephant in Thailand when it grabbed his GoPro camera and snapped an 'elfie.' HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

out of food.

He says he was in shock when the animal grabbed his camera and snapped the picture, and it took him a moment to react.

"Elephants are incredibly intelligent and it definitely makes you wonder if it was a conscious action," he said in an email.

He wasn't worried because the elephant seemed quite gentle, despite its size. Luckily, the camera wasn't damaged when he got it back.

LeBlanc still can't believe the worldwide media coverage the photo has attracted.

"The global attention has been a total joy ride. I keep laughing when I see the story

reach another outlet or country. To think my unexpected photo would make global news is almost unbelievable."

He jokes that his next goal is to get the attention of comedian and TV host Ellen DeGeneres, adding a hashtag: #elfieonellen.

LeBlanc had been studying abroad as part of a UBC program in Bangkok, but his semester ended two weeks ago and he is now travelling across Asia.

He and his girlfriend Laura Reid, both from White Rock, B.C., are in the Philippines, where he says he's captured another "epic" selfie — this time of a whale shark.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



To think my unexpected photo would make global news is almost unbelievable.

Christian LeBlanc



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A worker prepares an oil containment boom at Refugio State Beach, north of Goleta, Calif., Thursday. JAE C. HONG/AP PHOTO

Oil cleanup underway

OIL SPILL

Crude slick stretched nine miles along California coast

More than 7,700 gallons (29,000 litres) of oil has been raked, skimmed and vacuumed from a spill stretching across nine miles (14 kilometres) of California coast, just a fraction of the sticky crude that escaped from a ruptured pipeline, officials said Thursday.

Up to 105,000 gallons (400,000 litres) may have leaked from the pipeline Tuesday, and up to 21,000 gallons reached the sea just northwest of Santa Barbara, according to estimates from the pipeline operator.

The environmental impact was still being assessed, but there was no immediate evidence of widespread harm to birds and sea life.

The early toll on wildlife included five oil-covered pelicans, which were taken in to be cleaned, officials said. Biologists counted dead fish and crustaceans along sandy beaches and rocky shores.

The spill occurred along a long, rustic coast that forms the northern boundary of the Santa Barbara Channel,

home to a rich array of sea life. Whales, dolphins, sea lions, seals, sea otters and birds use the waters between the mainland and the Channel Islands, five of which are a national park surrounded by a national marine sanctuary.

The coastline was the scene of a much larger spill in 1969 — the largest in U.S. waters at the time — that is credited with giving rise to the American environmental movement.

Workers in protective suits shovelled black sludge off beaches, and boats towed

booms into place to corral two oil slicks. The number of cleanup workers surpassed 300, and the number of boats working the slicks rose to 18, officials said.

They could get help from expected light winds and calm seas, said Sean Anderson, an environmental scientist at California State University, Channel Islands.

"When the water's choppy, the response gets complicated. But since the water's nice and flat, the oil sticks together and it's easier to spot and easier to pick up," he said.

Coast Guard Capt. Jennifer Williams said the slicks were moving seaward, not toward other beaches.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JAPAN

Taiji won't end disputed dolphin hunt

The fishing town of Taiji will not stop its dolphin hunts, the mayor said Thursday, after Japan's aquariums decided to stop buying captured dolphins under international pressure sparked by cruelty concerns.

"We are hunting under the permission of the Japanese government and prefecture, and so we will continue to protect our fishermen and the methods. We will not quit," said Kazutaka Sangen, mayor of the

small town in central Japan.

Eating dolphin and whale meat is waning in Japan as people's tastes change, but some Japanese see it as no different from eating chicken or beef. They are puzzled by how the international view on dolphin and whale hunting is so different from that of traditional fishing communities like Taiji.

On Wednesday, the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums announced it would stop

buying Taiji dolphins. It had risked being suspended by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, which characterized the Taiji hunt as "cruel" and decided that none of its members should acquire dolphins in such a way.

In Taiji's hunt, notoriously filmed in the Oscar-winning documentary *The Cove*, dolphins are scared with banging, herded into a cove and speared

by fishermen for their meat. The best-looking animals are sold to aquariums and marine shows for thousands of dollars each.

Sangen scoffed at WAZA's views. "WAZA gave in to the anti-whaling activists that turned dolphin hunting into an international problem. I believe there was a better way to handle the issue," he told reporters.

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Shopify's shares jump 51% a day after stunning debut

E-COMMERCE

Ottawa-based company's IPO priced each share at \$17

Shares of Shopify climbed 51 per cent in the company's first day of trading Thursday, one day after raking in \$131 million in its initial public offering, more than expected.

Shopify Inc. stock rose \$8.68 to close at \$25.68. The offering of 7.7 million shares priced at \$17 each, valuing the entire company at around \$1.27 billion.

The Canadian company works with merchants who want to offer their own online checkout services, providing a platform for small- and mid-size businesses that sell products online. The platform offers merchants the ability to manage inventory, process orders and payments, and also to interact with their customers. Clients can use Shopify's software to handle sales made through mobile phones, the web, physical stores and other means.

Shopify said it handled about \$3.8 billion in transactions in 2014, and it reported \$105 million in revenue.

The jump put Shopify on pace for one of the strongest first days among companies that went public in 2015.

The biggest gainers have been cancer drug developer Aduro Biotech Inc. and Shake Shack Inc., both of which more than doubled on their first day of trading.

The stock is trading on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol SHOP.

InfoTech Research Group senior analyst Ben Dickie says the company is attractive because of its presence in the "hot space" of mobile payments.

He says unlike other tech companies that have listed on the stock market, such as Facebook, Shopify has a clear business model and an obvious potential for revenue growth.

Regulatory filings show that Shopify lost \$22.3 million last year compared to \$4.8 million in 2013. Its revenue more than doubled to \$105 million.

The company said it handled \$3.8 billion in transactions in 2014. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Shopify CEO Tobias Lutke, centre wearing hat, rings the New York Stock Exchange opening bell on Thursday, marking the Canadian company's IPO. RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ FIVE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SHOPIFY

E-Commerce: Shopify targets small- and medium-sized business with software for designing, building and managing sales across the web, mobile applications and stores. Its 165,000 customers in 150 countries include Tesla Motors and the NBA's Los Angeles Lakers. Sixty per cent of its client base is in the U.S.

Value: The company's IPO was priced at \$17 US per share, up from the \$14 to \$16 range the company had previously indicated, because of investor interest.

Humble beginnings: The company grew from the modest ambitions of three Ottawa men looking to sell snowboarding equipment online. The platform they

built turned into Shopify, which began offering its services to other businesses in 2006. The original snowboarding shop is still selling boards, bindings and goggles on the web.

Growth: Originally five people, Shopify now has more than 500 employees in Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal. The company's new six-

floor, 102,000-square-foot headquarters in downtown Ottawa can accommodate 740 employees and Shopify plans to fill the space.

Business model: Around 60 per cent of Shopify's revenue comes from selling subscriptions to its platform. It offers a variety of plans at different price points.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OECD STUDY

Wealth gap hits growth

The widening gap between haves and have-nots in much of the developed world is holding back economic growth, according to a new global study.

Far from a rising tide lifting all ships, income inequality increases in good economic times as well as bad, Thursday's report from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development says.

An increase in income inequality between 1985 and 2005 knocked 4.7 percentage points off cumulative growth between 1990 and 2010 on average across its 34 member countries, it concluded in its report, *In It Together, Why Less Inequality Benefits All*.

Policies to improve women's treatment in the labour market and measures to reverse the growing share of low-quality, "dead-end" jobs are key to reducing income inequality and unlocking more economic growth, the OECD said.

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ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

The government love sleuth's guide to spotting true passion

We're lucky we've got the government to judge and sanction modern love.

Just look at a Citizenship and Immigration Canada training document from 2007 — revealed this week — which offers tips on how to spot “non-genuine marital relationships.”

The extra tool to counter “an observed temporary spike in cases of marriages of convenience,” as a spokesperson put it, undoubtedly helped immigration officers in Ottawa cubicles identify the real deal, before the rules changed a few years ago.

And since what is love internationally is love domestically, it's helpful for us all.

For example, Chinese nationals marrying non-Chinese are suspicious. Restaurant receptions are dubious. No honeymoon, “not even a couple of days away”? Likely, no love. Oh, and diamonds, in ring form, are obligatory.

An age difference of more than 10 years (like that of my long-married parents) is a red flag. A lack of photos equals a lack of romance. And different ethnic and education backgrounds show lovers are pulling a scam. After all, in modern times, like marriages like.

The document also clarifies that money DOES buy love, and is in fact key to its veracity. Sparing no cost on a wedding isn't cliché — it's

credible.

Of course, this all makes it hard for poor people to avoid a sham marriage. And sadly, it means a few of my friends have love that's a lie.

Like the Canadians who eloped in Austin, Texas, using rings they already owned. And the ones who wed at a cottage without parents or professional photos.

I have bad news, too, for my friend who married a man from India, possibly one of those “very poor” countries that are a source of frauds looking for a better life. After all, the “more they have to gain, the higher the bar is to satisfy the bona fides.”

Thank God I'm with an American; someone who “doesn't gain that much.” I'm even grateful this document was released (via an access to information request). It will help us plan the right romantic evidence for the government love sleuth.

For instance, we won't use photos of us in pyjamas or cooking — like my colleague did on her application. They're an obvious attempt to prove fake cohabitation. She had to cough up better proof.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada, let it be said, has a very tough job measuring love. And if our non-traditional, on-the-cheap, interracial and sans-family weddings just don't match the state's ideals, we know who's wrong.

Happy face/Sad face

From mangled maps to Arctic adventures, Metro weighs in on the news making headlines this week



Multiple Maritime map mix-ups

A Calgary tour company had to apologize twice this week for bungling maps of two provinces. A brochure from Anderson Vacations advertised three Newfoundland landmarks — Deer Lake, Main Brook, and the capital, St. John's — on a map of Nova Scotia's Cape Breton Island. The company said sorry a second time for a map that identified St. John's, N.L. as Saint John, a city in New Brunswick. [CBC.ca](#)



Missing man safe after 60km Arctic trek

Parks Canada employee Brian Koonoo, who was reported missing May 15 from Hall Beach, Nunavut, turned up this week after a four-day search through freezing temperatures and blowing snow. Koonoo, an expert hunter, lost his radio. His snowmobile broke down and his GPS ran out of batteries. With help of a map app, on Wednesday at 5:30 a.m., he arrived on foot at his destination, Repulse Bay, after a 60-km stroll. [CBC.ca](#)



Pot may be bad news for boys' growth

Smoking marijuana early in life can interfere with boys' development, says a new study from the European Society of Endocrinology. Researchers measured hormones in the blood of 220 non-smoking and 217 marijuana-addicted boys. Puberty hormones were elevated, and growth hormones depressed, in marijuana smokers. The non-smokers were an average four kilograms heavier and 4.6 inches taller by age 20. [SCIENCEDAILY.COM](#)



Teen hailed for healthy invention

Forget baking-soda volcanoes: A Vancouver student invented a way to curb global epidemics for his science project — and now he's \$75,000 US richer. Raymond Wang, 17, won first prize at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, Pa. on Friday. He created a new air circulation system to redirect air to give everyone their own breathing space in aircraft cabins. [THE CANADIAN PRESS](#)

Thanks, Air Canada, for the laugh at others' pain

THE KOHLER REPORT

Rebecca Kohler



Do you ever find yourself deriving pleasure in other people's misfortunes? Like when you run into an ex-boyfriend who, for every hair he's lost, has gained a pound? There's a term for this perverse glee. It's called schadenfreude (from the German words schaden, for “damage” and Freude, meaning “joy”). Well, I had some major damage-joy this week when I heard Air Canada was going to start cracking down on carry-on luggage. That's right, as of next week, Air Canada will be carefully inspecting your carry-on. If it's too big, they'll charge you \$25 to check it.

Now, you might be thinking, “Rebecca, you idiot,

you're also going to suffer — you are deriving pleasure from your own misfortune.” But here's the thing, I won't. I won't suffer from this new rule because I was never one of those people who tried to bring my refrigerator onto the plane. My bags were always the appropriate size because I'm what they call a “rule-follower” (a.k.a. a brown-noser).

I tried a few times to bring my overnight clothes on board but almost every time I'd get singled out and be forced to check my bag at the gate. It's like when I travel, I turn into Mr. Bean and nothing goes my way. Flight attendants would stop me and tell me my bag was too big. Meanwhile, I'd see another person get on board with a cello and a pet elephant.

One time, as I boarded, I was told there was no overhead space left — a situa-

tion familiar to those who are often last to board (not-rich people). I checked my tiny suitcase, but when I got to my seat, I was shocked to find the overhead bin empty — while this is the kind of irony that made Alanis Morissette famous, all it caused for me was severe irritation.

Since giving up on trying to bring an extra set of undies on board, I have gritted my teeth while watching others get away with carry-on murder: “laptop” bags that could fit a desktop computer from 1988, or those people who affix two small suitcases together so it looks like one (you know who you are).

And because of those people, often — by the time I get on board with my modest but cool Herschel backpack — I can't even store it overhead and am forced to cram it down by my feet, giving me

I won't suffer under this new rule, because I was never one of those people who tried to bring my refrigerator onto the plane.

even less leg room than the centimetre I was allotted.

So, yeah, I can't wait for the next time I fly, when I will get to watch everyone else go through what, for some reason, I've been going through my entire life. See you at the baggage carousel, suckers!

Rebecca Kohler is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter @becca_kohler

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PHILOSOPHER CAT by Jason Logan

IT'S HARDER TO MAKE THE GLASS THAN BREAK THE GLASS.



Tempted by Tomorrowland?

OPENING WEEKEND
Disney remains mum on plot details of their \$190M film

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse



We're about to reach the tipping point of the summer and it's not even the end of May. In a summer crowded with sequels like Avengers: Age of Ultron and Pitch Perfect 2; reboots like Terminator Genisys and Jurassic World; remakes like Poltergeist and Entourage — a TV show blown up for the big screen — along comes Tomorrowland, a big-budget film based on an original idea. Not every film this year is a sequel, prequel or the like, but Tomorrowland, with a budget topping out at \$190 million, is the most expensive original film to come down the pike this year. Borrowing its name from the futuristic themed land found at Disney parks, the movie stars George Clooney as a former boy genius, and Britt Robertson as a gifted teenager, who — according to the press materials — “travel to a place somewhere in time and space only known as Tomorrowland where their actions directly affect the world and themselves.”

Disney is deliberately keeping plot details under wraps, hoping the allure of mysterious trailers will draw people in. It's the opposite of the usual strategy of showcasing the film's highlights in a two-minute promo. I was at the D23 Expo in Anaheim, Calif. — imagine the Disney version of Comic Con — in 2013 when Brad Bird and Damon Lindelof unveiled the name of the movie, but little else. In a splashy presentation they claimed a “dusty old box” labelled 1952, that was found in the Disney Imagineering archives, had inspired the story. Containing a mysterious mishmash of items, including a 1928 copy of Amazing Stories magazine, a photograph of Walt Disney and Amelia Earhart allegedly taken after her disappearance, a short animated documentary and an unidentified metal object, they said the idea of the film is to ask “what if these mystery clues were real?” Teasing the potential audience into buying tickets is an intriguing but risky idea. It's a risk Bird was willing to take. He turned down the chance to direct Star Wars: Episode VII — The Force Awakens, to make Tomorrowland, saying, “it's rare to do a film of this size that's original, so those opportunities can't be missed either.” But will it be an opportunity that moviegoers will embrace? Suggesting that Hollywood only feels comfortable



Britt Robertson stars in Tomorrowland, the most expensive original film to come out this summer. CONTRIBUTED

with movies that are pre-sold via brand recognition is an understatement. Whether it is a familiar title with a number added or any movie from the mighty Marvel stable, the big studios aren't in the habit of taking chances and it's not

their fault. It's ours. One of the main complaints I hear from people is that there are no interesting movies in release and yet Furious 7 and Age of Ultron have grossed amounts equal to the GNP of some small nations. By supporting big-budget “branded” movies, we send the message that original stories don't interest us, only ones that give us what we expect. While we have the chance, why not take a chance on a movie that takes a risk? That's the tipping point. Check out Tomorrowland or Ex Machina. If sci-fi isn't your thing, how about Aloha or Inside Out? There is room for all kinds of movies but why not vote with your feet and let the studios know that their steady diet of sequels, prequels and reboots is quickly nearing its best-by date.


MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Tomorrowland ★★★
Welcome To Me ★★★★★
Banksy Does New York ★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
 ★★★★★ SEE IT
 ★★★ WORTHWHILE
 ★★ UP TO YOU
 ★ SKIP IT



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George Clooney: eternal optimist

TOMORROWLAND

He plays bitter in new sci-fi film, but inside he's nothing but hopeful



Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Life

George Clooney may be one of the few bona fide movie stars we have left, but he still thinks he's a bit out of place in the summer blockbuster arena.

"Putting me in a summer movie is a very bold thought," he says with his trademark smirk. "First and foremost, I think it's a really bold thing for Disney to be willing to do a film that isn't a sequel and isn't a comic book and truly invest in a summer film of this sort of ilk."

Which sort of ilk, exactly? Tomorrowland, directed by Brad Bird and written by Bird and Lost creator Damon Lindelof, features Clooney as "a former boy genius who's gotten bitter in his old age" — to hear Clooney himself describe it — who teams up with a precocious teen (Britt Robertson) to get back to the secret world of Tomorrowland, where the smartest minds



George Clooney stars in a new Disney film about trying to go back to the 1960s to make the world a better place. DISNEY 2015

disappeared back in the 1960s to build a better future.

"I opened up the description of the character — 'A 55-year-old has-been.' I'm kind of going, 'Wait, hey, hey, hang on a minute. Which part am I reading for?'"

Luckily, 54-year-old Clooney got over any lingering sense of vanity. "I just loved the idea," he says. "We live in a world right now where you turn on your television set and it's rough

out there and it's not fun, and it can really wear on you after a period of time. We see generations now feeling as if it's sort of hopeless in a way. What I love about it is it speaks to the idea that your future is not preordained and predestined, and that if you're involved, a single voice can make a difference — and I believe in that."

That 1960s optimism is something Clooney would like to see more of here in the 21st

century.

"What I loved about the film was that it reminds you that young people don't start out their lives cynical or angry or bigoted. You have to be taught all of those things. I watch the world now and think well, I see really good signs from young people out there and I feel as if the world will get better. I've always been an optimist. I've been a realist, but I've been an optimist about it."

NEW RELEASES

Actor infuses role with '60s swagger'

Making your mark as a bit player in an eye-popping, effects-laden Disney movie featuring George Clooney is no easy feat.

But that's what Montreal-born actor Matthew MacCaull set out to do with his brief appearance in the futuristic Tomorrowland, a kid-friendly adventure tale drawing on both the name and wondrous spirit of the other-worldly theme park.

Britt Robertson stars as a brilliant teen who finds a pin that transports her momentarily to what seems to be the future.

When she's zapped back to the present day she enlists the help of Clooney's character, a former boy genius named Frank Walker, in her bid to find this parallel world again.

MacCaull's character Dave Clark is a mysterious figure intent on protecting the secrets of Tomorrowland. He doesn't get much screen time, but MacCaull saw an opportunity to stand out nonetheless.

"I thought that he could be a really memorable character and I thought if I do my work right, he might be even an iconic character," MacCaull says.

"The answer was: Do as much work as you can. If you wake up in the middle of the night and you have an idea, get out of bed and work on it, don't wait. Just work on it right now. So there were definitely a couple of sleepless nights."

MacCaull began strategizing when he scored an audition, even though he had virtually no information on the role. He says he was only told a few key details — the name of the film, the name of the character and the fact that director Brad Bird (Ratatouille, The Incredibles) and screenwriter Damon Lindelof (Lost, Star Trek Into Darkness, Prometheus) were involved. The name Dave Clark immediately had him thinking about '60s English rockers The Dave Clark Five, so he decided to infuse the role with a "sort of '60s swagger."

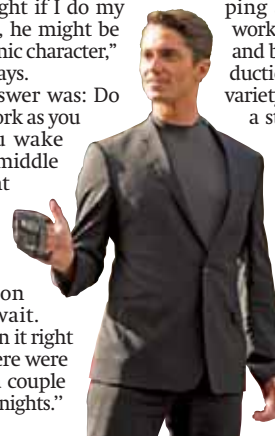
"It was just one of those moments where an actor has to make a choice and actors always make choices," said the 37-year-old MacCaull, whose parents and family are from Prince Edward Island.

"And so I just thought, 'I think I've got some creative freedom here to make some bigger choices.' And luckily, I guess I was right."

MacCaull's big break comes after more than a decade of chipping away at background work, commercial auditions and bit parts in smaller productions. That's on top of a variety of day jobs including a stint as a travelling toilet brush salesman in Halifax, a trucker in the United Kingdom, and a lifeguard in Vancouver, which is still how he spends his summers.

"It was just so hard," MacCaull admits of his long road to establishing an acting career.

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On the darker side of funny

SOPHOMORE DIRECTOR

Shira Piven takes a risk in comedy about mental illness

Steve Gow
For Metro

When Shira Piven went searching for a story to make her second movie, she came across a script that might have scared off a lot of other filmmakers. After all, *Welcome To Me* isn't just a comedy — it's a comedy about mental illness.

"I feel like the script was written with care," explained the sophomore director from Los Angeles. "It's definitely risky to make a movie that has funny elements about a woman who has borderline personality disorder, which is a very real thing, but there are lots of funny things

that happen in real life; lots of absurd moments that we all stumble into — even people with mental illness — so the tone of the script was very familiar to me."

Even so, Piven insists she was "extremely careful and respectful" in crafting the fictional comedy about unstable Alice Klieg (Kristen Wiig) — a woman who wins the lottery and, inspired by her idol Oprah Winfrey, buys herself a talk show in which to broadcast her own incredibly personal interests and issues.

"I think the mental illness illuminates the social illness in the movie," said Piven, referring to the parallels of Klieg's obsession with today's cultural infatuation to "broadcast" our lives through social media.

Piven also admits that casting Kristen Wiig was key to balancing that fine line between drawing laughs and simply treading on a sensitive social issue. Although Wiig is best known for crafting sidesplitting characters

from her days on *Saturday Night Live*, the *Bridesmaids* star portrays Alice Klieg with subdued poignancy.

"I was inspired by certain performances that I'd seen," says Piven, who specifically points to Martin Scorsese's 1982 film *The King of Comedy* in which comedians Jerry Lewis and Sandra Bernhard played serious parts. "They played it absolutely straight so they were fascinating. I find the darker side of funny people really fascinating (so) I felt that I wanted an actress like Kristen — an actress that really began in a comic place intuitively but could also go to more tragic, darker places."



I find the darker side of funny people really fascinating

Director Shira Piven



Kristen Wiig in the dark comedy *Welcome to Me*. CONTRIBUTED

ON THE SET

Wind Kristen Wiig up, and let her go

"That's your job as a director when you're working with good people," said Shira Piven of working with Kristen Wiig.

"Create an environment where they feel free to play and be their most free self. So a lot of time it was just about keeping a very relaxed atmosphere on set and making sure she felt safe and comfortable trying a lot of different things."

Improvising and flexing her comedy muscle

Co-produced by her longtime husband and filmmaker Adam McKay, Piven admits the Anchorman-director helped her flex her comedy muscle.

"He's got this kind of amazing method of directing comedy and when he produces, he always encourages directors to use improvisation and get alternate takes," said Piven.

"It's not entirely a comedy but definitely, (he) gave me more confidence to do more improvising."

COMEDY SEQUEL

Pitch Perfect 2 star Brittany Snow finds humour in having a nervous breakdown

The girls from *Pitch Perfect* are back, and if you think that Brittany Snow's character, Chloe, should have graduated by now, you're not wrong. For Snow, that meant playing a character pretending to be dumb enough not to graduate — all for the sake of a cappella.

Exactly how many years has your character been in college now?

Um ... she was a sophomore in the first one, so she's failed, I think, now three times? Yeah. She just loves being a Bella and just can't give it up. They wanted her to still be involved and unable to let go, and because she's had to stay in school to be a Bella she has to get more and more dumb.

How do you approach playing a character who is intentionally trying to seem dumb?

The way to play that is to make her not dumb. She believes wholeheartedly everything that she's saying, and she really passionately cares about these girls and this legacy. You see that in the first one and you definitely see that in this one, that she cares so much about this. It's

her entire life. She only sees what's in front of her and she doesn't see that eventually you have to move on.

Speaking of, where do you see her going after she finally leaves college?

Because she's an extremist and she only does things to 100 per cent, she probably would take it in the exact opposite way and really let go



Brittany Snow. CONTRIBUTED

of everything. I just have this image of her being a hippie, just living in a commune or, like, in a field, going to Burning Man.

But she would be, like, really into Burning Man, right?

She's really into Burning Man. She's doing all of the activities and everything. She's probably manning all the booths (laughs).

How did you find the right balance for the humour in this?

When we got the script it was very edgy, and I was extremely excited because it really didn't shy away from all things funny, no matter what or who it offended. A lot of that has been cut because we couldn't make that movie with a PG-13 rating.

What sort of offensive stuff are we talking about?

My character was drunk a lot of the time and jumping in the pool and going a little bit crazy, and that got cut as well. Chloe's definitely still having a nervous breakdown, but she's not drunk — which is unfortunate, because I really liked playing that.

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So long, TV greats, hello, old friend

FINALE

Enjoy a few slices, for old times' sake

THE TV DINNER

Jessica Allen



My partner Simon and I used to order a party-size pizza from Vesuvio in Toronto at least once a week. But because I've been mindful of what I eat since January, it's been a while. Okay, precisely 147 days.

How would I cope without it? It felt like the end of an era: a sentiment millions of viewers share after two great television shows, *Mad Men* and *Late Night with David Letterman*, have ended.

Mad Men adorers methodically look for meaning. In the third-last episode, for example, I noted that two characters said "for old times' sake." That's a line from *The Godfather*—remember when Tessio asks Tom to let him off the hook? Coincidentally, in that very episode Don Draper is



Jessica Allen commemorated the end of *Mad Men* and *Letterman* with a couple of slices from her favourite pizza joint. ABOVE AND BELOW: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS; VESUVIO PIZZA SHOT: TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

reading *The Godfather*. Jackpot!

Other views, including Simon's, argue that while there are great moments—including the first season's Kodak Carousel scene when Draper's advertising magic seduces the client and the audience—they all come

undone on account of one of the stupidest backstories in all of television.

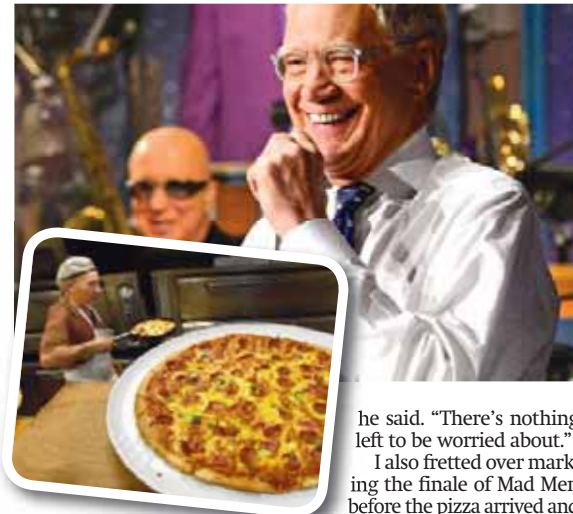
It's ham-fisted, says Simon, and undermines any existential weight the show accidentally has.

Opinions aside, we ordered a Vesuvio party-size Vulcano piz-

za—green olives on half—to watch the series finale on Sunday night, for old times' sake.

Sweet Lord, did that pie bring back memories.

Like watching *Letterman* after school in the late '80s and early '90s, which we'd tape on VHS



(that's a primitive form of PVR) while scoffing down *Pizza Pops*. I get all nostalgic about the talk show host, who's been commanding late-night stages for 33 years.

The *New York Times* recently asked *Letterman* if he regrets not tweaking his show in order to accommodate new audiences: "I know I can't do what Jimmy Fallon's doing. I know I can't do what Jimmy Kimmel is doing,"

he said. "There's nothing left to be worried about."

I also fretted over marking the finale of *Mad Men* before the pizza arrived and told Simon as much.

"Are you kidding me?" he said, before declaring that it's the only show where the series doesn't live up to the finale. "Are you not even listening to the song I just put on? And look what I'm drinking!"

He was holding a vodka martini with a twist. In the background, Frank Sinatra's *I Get Along Without You Very Well* hummed away.

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Tomorrowland

Director: Brad Bird

Starring: George Clooney, Hugh Laurie

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Director: Thomas Vinterberg

Starring: Carey Mulligan, Tom Sturridge

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Finding humour in the horror



SHOCK

Metro looks at the lighter side of The Human Centipede films

Chris Alexander
Metro | Life

Even if you haven't had the pleasure (?) of viewing one of filmmaker Tom Six's dubiously iconic films that fall under the The Human Centipede handle, you likely are at least aware of them.

The franchise — whose third offering, The Human Centipede 3: Final Sequence, gets released today — is in-

arguably among the most vile series of horror films ever unleashed, telling their tales as they do, of madmen who think stitching humans together rectum to mouth to form a scatological daisy chain is a some kind of reasonable idea.

But beneath Six's sickening shock tactics and vomit-inducing scenes lurk savvy, trans-

gressive comedies; blackly funny affairs in which scenes of gruesome psychological and biological terror serve as the, ahem, butt of the joke.

Here, Metro takes a look at the lighter side of The Human Centipede films and finds the funny in the running horror joke Tom Six has been playing on us.

FIRST SEQUENCE

The Human Centipede (2009)

Six's maiden voyage into mad oral/anal science stars German actor Dieter Laser as the psychotic surgeon Dr. Heiter, who opts to kidnap three unfortunate souls to fulfil his dreams of six-legged gory glory. This is a grim, conceptually hideous film and yet there are moments of hilarious absurdity. Laser himself is a cartoon, like something teleported out of the broadest Mel Brooks spoof; he stalks hallways, glowers with bug eyes and goes off on outrageous ranting tangents with theatrical aplomb. Scenes in which he attempts to "train" his creation with a riding crop are sublimely silly as is the moment where he jumps up and down, giggling like a six-year-old while his "centipede" feeds. Gross? Sure. Funny? Absolutely.

FULL SEQUENCE

The Human Centipede 2 (2011)

Six returned two years later with this operatically vile black-and-white sequel. The fact that Six responded to the studio cutting the film by saying, "it's like I made a comedy and they take out all the good jokes!" tells one all you need to know about the film's tongue in (butt) cheek intentions. In it, Martin Lomax (Laurence Harvey) becomes obsessed with the first film and, exploiting his position as a security guard in an underground parking garage, traps victims to make his own super-centipede. Of course, Martin is not a doctor, and what he lacks in surgical know-how, he makes up for with a staple gun and the biggest tub of liquid laxatives ever seen, resulting in vomitous hilarity. HC2 is so far removed from reality and so over the top that it feels like a John Waters movie on steroids.



FINAL SEQUENCE

The Human Centipede 3 (2015)



With this supposedly final film, Six channels Cecil B. DeMille by launching a 500-person centipede using real actors and no CGI. This full-blown meta-comedy sees Laser returning as a megalomaniacal prison warden and Harvey as his simpering sidekick. After watching the first two films, they decide to solve the problem of feeding the inmates by sewing them together.

With Laser chewing scenery, Laurence sweating and sniggering, the extreme social commentary of prison overpopulation and the casting of eccentric Hollywood actor Eric Roberts as the leering governor, HC3 is the last word in berserk bad taste and as such, is one of the funniest horror films ever made.

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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AT THE TOP

Panoramic city views

At the observatory, which opens May 29, visitors can stand on a round video platform that shows an actual livestream of the view straight down. There's also wraparound views stretching 80 kilometres past the Manhattan skyline to the Atlantic Ocean. On the elevator ride down, LED screens surrounding passengers simulate the flight of a bird or plane high above the site, dipping and soaring around the skyscrapers all the way back to the ground.

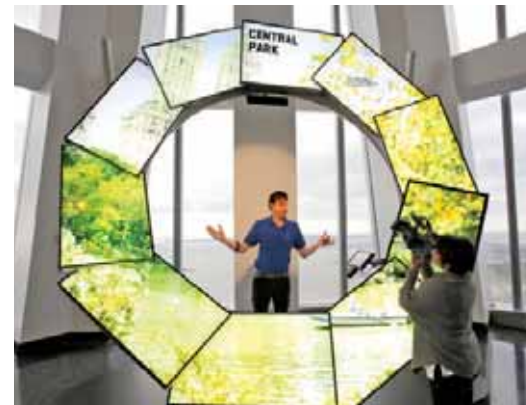
\$32

Price of an adult ticket to One World Observatory. Tickets for seniors cost \$30 and \$26 for children.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WHAT'S IN THE OBSERVATORY

Panels inform visitors

Stepping from the elevator to the One World Observatory, visitors are greeted with display panels showing 3D, bird's-eye scenes of the metropolis. The panels then lift to reveal New York City — right now. There's another display called City Pulse, a ring of high-definition video monitors marking popular city activities, neighbourhoods and "hot spots." A wave of the hand in the direction of any of these subjects opens further details.



This is a reminder of moving forward.

David Checketts,
CEO of Legends,
operator of One
World Observatory



WHEN YOU ENTER

Workers tell their stories

Just above the street-level entrance, faces of men and women who toiled to erect the gleaming, 1,776-foot, 104-storey tower appear in a jagged tunnel that replicates the building's bedrock, their recorded voices filled with both pain and pride. And during the 48-second elevator ride up to the 102nd floor, a 3D, time-lapse panorama shows 515 years of history at the tip of Manhattan, with the twin towers of the original World Trade Center appearing for less than four seconds before dissolving out of view.

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ON THE MOVE

Loren
Christie

Whether you're a serious oenophile or simply a tourist looking for a tippie, a vineyard visit is a great way to enjoy outstanding cuisine, get a peek into local culture, and of course, sample wine.



ISTOCK

1 Marlborough, New Zealand

Driving around the towns of Blenheim and Renwick, lovers of Sauvignon Blanc will recognize familiar names such as Cloudy Bay and Villa Maria from the shelves of their liquor stores back home. However, make sure to check out some of unknowns; the Twelve Trees restaurant at the Allan Scott wineries served up an incredible lunch of the area's locally farmed greenshell mussels and the colonial-style Bistro at Hans Herzog is renowned throughout the country. Stay at the charming St Leonards Vineyard Cottages in Blenheim; the Woolshed cottage overlooks the vineyard and an orchard of lemon trees full of goats.

2 Alsace, France

The region of Alsace sits nestled against the Vosges Mountains on the French side of the border between Germany and France. The region produces eight varietals but is best known for its Riesling, which is less sweet than you might expect. The region is relatively small and is best explored by bike. Some of the larger towns of Colmar or Molsheim make good places to base yourself, but make sure to take time to explore the stunning and charming villages in between. Riquewihr is a picture-perfect postcard example of the region's unique architecture, which is influenced by its close proximity to Germany.



PETER REMUS



ISTOCK

3 Okanagan Valley, B.C.

Here in Canada, British Columbia's Okanagan Valley is a great choice, particularly if you are fan of red wine. Headquarter yourself in Kelowna, recognized as the birthplace of the province's wine industry and home to some of the oldest and most established wineries. With a critical mass of more than 25 wineries to visit, there are five established wine trails in the area; Scenic Sip, Fab Five of Kelowna, Grapes & Grains Trail, Lakeshore Wine Route, and Westside Wine Trail. The iconic Mission Hill Family Estate sits on a hill overlooking Lake Okanagan and is a true destination winery. It offers some amazing culinary experiences tying in with the local farm-to-table culture and some signature events, including a fall epicurean dinner and a summer concert series.

TRAVEL NOTES CAMPS, SEAT SENSE AND BRAZILIAN LUXURY

Kids camp

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Cocktail culture shakes up city

OTTAWA

Bartenders creating new combinations to sip, savour

Whether celebrating happy hour, going on a date or indulging in a liquid lunch, Ottawa's cocktail scene has plenty on tap.

Gone are the days when the drink with the most alcohol and sugar was the tippie of the week (we're looking at you, Long Island Iced Tea). Now cocktails are appreciated not only for their intoxicating abilities, but also for their flavour profiles.

"Bartenders everywhere have moved towards more traditional, organic cocktail making," said Emily Lenzi, owner of the farm-to-table gastropub Two Six Ate in Ottawa's Little Italy neighbourhood. "People are making their own bitters, infusing spirits, making syrups and cordials and using fresh, local ingredients."

With twists on traditional beverages and unique cre-



Emily Lenzi, left, owner, and Roopa Philar, manager, of Ottawa restaurant Two Six Ate, create cocktails. JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

ations, Two Six Ate's list is expansive, and gives a nod to the surrounding Italian community with Campari, Aperol and Prosecco.

The Gin 'n Juice cocktail

— gin, grapefruit juice, soda, house grapefruit bitters, peach bitters, lemon juice, allspice, maple syrup and, most notably, a splash of Cynar — had been invented to feature the herb-

and-citrus Italian artichoke liqueur.

"I had wanted to (pair Cynar and grapefruit) for a long time," Lenzi said. "I've always thought those flavours could work well

together if they were balanced the right way. I think the drink is fun and refreshing and a good example of the types of things we like to make."

Among all the factors that make a great cocktail, "balance" is one word common among bartenders and mixologists, even those new to the scene like Ace Mercado.

Opened in August, the restaurant prides specializes in tequila-based drinks. It's not all margaritas and tequila sunrise though. Ace is highly creative; any patron need only order the Aldasoro to see that.

A mix of tequila and liqueurs, the cocktail is a beautiful purple, but it doesn't stop there. For wow, Ace uses green Chartreuse that is lit and then cooled using liquid nitrogen.

"(We want to) leave each guest with a strikingly unique and memorable experience through each of our different cocktails," said Scott Porter, managing partner of Ace Mercado.

On Elgin Street, the Guest Room, on the top floor of Fresco Bistro, has a speakeasy vibe and is constantly mixing up something new and different.

+ IF YOU GO

Where to have a drink

• Two Six Ate is at 268 Preston St. and is open late. Closed on Tuesdays.

• Ace Mercado is at 121 Clarence St. in the ByWard Market.

• The Guest Room is on the second floor of Fresco Bistro at 354 Elgin St.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The bar creates its own flavours of alcohol, from tulip and rosemary-infused gin to tobacco-infused tequila. Staffers make their own syrups, like salted caramel, vanilla and even Guinness. Many drinks are smoked.

The mixologists need a certain amount of swagger to serve the Rat Pack, a \$40 cocktail featuring Jack Daniel's Frank Sinatra Select whiskey and buttered Johnnie Walker Black Label whisky.

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FIVE TOP PLAYERS TO WATCH

At the Memorial Cup

MAY 21-31

A look at who could shine in Quebec City

LEON DRAISAITL

Kelowna Rockets

The six-foot-one, 210-pound centre led the Rockets in playoff scoring with 10 goals and 28 points in 19 games. Drafted third overall by Edmonton in 2014, the German started the season with the Oilers, then was returned to the Western Hockey League in January.

JAN KOSTALEK

Rimouski Oceanic

The six-foot-one, 195 pound defenceman was a force as the Oceanic topped the Remparts in the QMJHL final. The 20-year-old Czech had eight goals and 21 points in 20 post-season games. Drafted 114th overall by the Winnipeg Jets in 2013.

NICK MERKLEY

Kelowna Rockets

The 17-year-old's stock for the 2015 draft keeps rising. A five-foot-10 centre, Merkley is a playmaker with a tenacious, energetic game. The Calgary native was third in WHL playoff scoring with five goals and 27 points.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ADAM ERNE

Quebec Remparts

The Tampa Bay Lightning, already loaded with scoring talent, have another blue-chipper on the way with the six-foot-one 218-pound left-winger. The New Haven, Conn. native was second in QMJHL playoff scoring with 21 goals and nine assists in 22 games. Picked 33rd overall by the Bolts in 2013.

MICHAEL DALCOLLE

Oshawa Generals

Led the generals with 93 points in the regular season and tied with teammate Cole Cassels for second in OHL playoff scoring (behind Erie's Connor McDavid) with 31 points in 21 games. Picked fifth overall by the New York Islanders in 2014.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

CHL'S BIGGEST PRIZE

Lots of familiarity at Le Colisée

There are no strangers in this year's Memorial Cup tournament.

The four teams that will begin the battle at the Pepsi Colisée on Friday night have been in major junior hockey's championship tournament repeatedly, although its been 25 years since the Oshawa Generals' last appearance.

Each team has won it at least once, and all are capable of winning again.

The Kelowna Rockets, led by scoring star Leon Draisaitl, plowed through the Western

Hockey League playoffs with a 16-3 record, including a four-game sweep of the top-ranked Brandon Wheat Kings in the final.

The Rimouski Oceanic went 16-4 in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League post-season, but needed a goal by Michael Joly in the second overtime period to beat the Quebec Remparts in Game 7 of the final.

Oshawa, fresh from a 13th Ontario Hockey League championship after going 16-5 in the playoffs, used the best

defence in all three leagues to send phenom Connor McDavid and the Erie Otters packing in only five games in their final.

And the host Remparts bring a team of speed and skill led by Tampa Bay Lightning prospect Adam Erne, who scored 21 goals in 22 playoff games.

The Remparts open the round robin portion of the 10-day tournament Friday night against Kelowna, while Oshawa plays Rimouski on Saturday afternoon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL IN BRIEF



Aaron Hernandez had a new neck tattoo at Thursday's appearance at Suffolk Superior Court on Thursday in Boston. STEPHAN SAVOIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hernandez displays new ink at intimidation hearing

Former NFL player Aaron Hernandez, sporting a new neck tattoo while making his first court appearance since being sentenced to life in prison for murder, pleaded not guilty on Thursday to a charge he tried to silence a witness in a separate double murder case by shooting him in the face.

The tattoo, on the right side of his neck, includes the word "Lifetime" above a star. The bottom portion of the tattoo was obscured by his shirt collar.

It's a violation of Massachusetts prison regulations to get a tattoo, to tattoo someone else or to possess tattoo paraphernalia while incarcerated.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former players suing NFL, say it pushed painkillers

Hundreds of former players have filed a lawsuit claiming all 32 NFL teams, their doctors, trainers and medical staffs obtained and provided painkillers to players — often illegally — as part of a decades-long conspiracy to keep them on the field without regard for their long-term health. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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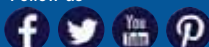
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Ready in

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 3 minutes

Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp peanut butter
- 1 Tbsp lemon juice
- 2 tsp soy sauce
- 2 tsp honey
- ½ tsp minced garlic
- ½ tsp minced ginger
- 3 Tbsp water
- 4 cup chopped baby bok choy
- ¼ cup grated carrot
- 4 oz baby cocktail shrimp
- 10 endive leaves
- ¼ cup chopped green onions

Directions

1. To make the sauce: In a small bowl mix peanut butter, lemon juice, soy sauce, honey, garlic, ginger and water until smooth.

2. In a large skillet sprayed with vegetable oil, add bok choy and stir fry for 3 minutes or just until soft. Add carrots, shrimp and half of the peanut sauce and cook for 1 minute until warm.

3. Spoon into endive leaves and drizzle with remaining sauce. Garnish with green onions.

Nutrition per serving (recipe serves 10)

- Calories 50
- Carbohydrates 5 g
- Fibre 1 g
- Protein 5 g
- Fat 1.5 g
- Sodium 190 mg

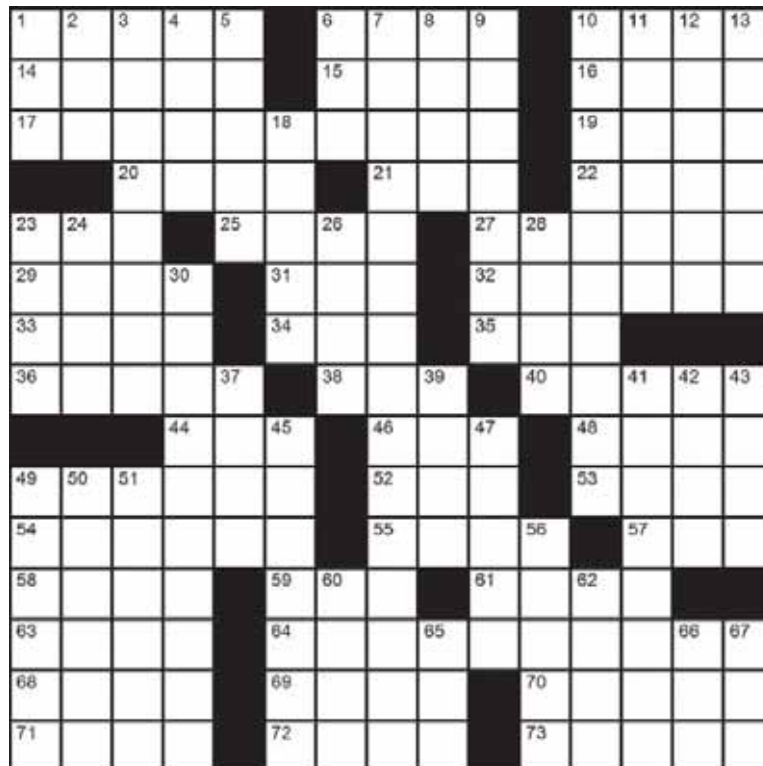
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ACROSS

- Ready to rock
- Gladiator's 1700
- Melancholy
- ...-eyed
- Of an important time
- Dokey's pal
- Canadian director, Denis ... (His film at #7-Down is a contender for #3-Down)
- BC footballer
- Slight
- Belg. neighbour
- 'I' and 'M' of IMO
- Fizzle
- Chg. card printout
- Canadian actor Mr. Garber of #7-Down
- Halts
- Esther's "... in Need of a Musical Revolution"
- From times-of-yore
- Glaswegian
- Schedule acronym
- Un-high
- Jeweller's meas.
- Young newt
- Sci-Fi flick extra
- ... few rounds (Spar)
- Swell/ducky
- Pace
- Missing
- 'Favour' suffix
- Kardashians momager
- On the ball: 2 wds.
- Capri pants, ...-length



- Founded [abbr.]
- Epithet for Athena
- Get permission
- Norway's patron saint
- "Freak on a Leash" nu metal band
- Food trucks specializing in french

- fries: 2 wds.
- Crossed out
- Juliette's "The English Patient" (1996) role
- Freshwater fish
- Rivers: Spanish
- Hen's hatchables
- Watched:

2 wds.

DOWN

- Rugged vehicle, commonly
- Pai ... "Kill Bill: Vol. 2" (2004) character
- Big prize at the Cannes Film Festival: 2 wds.

tival: 2 wds.

- Writer, ... Stanley Gardner
- Hair tint workers
- Michie ... Canadian rapper
- Starring Emily Blunt, what "Sicario" (2015) is about: 2 wds.
- Bat's hangout

- Quebec municipality northwest of Rouyn-Noranda near the Ontario border
- Criminal investigation component: 2 wds.
- Similar/related: 2 wds.
- Canadian sculptor whose work is featured in Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park: 2 wds.
- ... Skynyrd
- Food packaging meas.: 2 wds.
- Office table
- Empire of yore
- Olivia Newton-John's "Let ... There"
- The Munsters' pet bat
- Behind-the-scenes theatre people
- Ms. Braxton
- Brit's bye-bye
- Neil Simon play, ... in the Park
- Mr. Redding
- Examination
- Business tote, ... case
- Under
- More less asleep, say
- Neil Simon play, ... Blues
- "Connected" by ... MC's
- Shoes to switch into after a night of partying
- ... carpet
- Taj Mahal's site
- Not: French
- Stubby pencil
- Barn abode

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Venus, planet of harmony, is under pressure today but that does not mean you will be too. You will be okay if you refuse to let problems of a domestic nature get you down.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Yes, you appear to have a very thick skin but the fact is you are as easily upset as anyone else and what someone says today may hurt you immensely. Don't take it seriously and try to forgive them.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Chances are you will splash out on something that catches your eye today, only to regret it over the weekend when you realize how much it has cost and how little you now have available for other activities. Return it and get a refund.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
If you throw yourself into a new project today there is every possibility you will be looking for a way to get out of it tomorrow, so think before you act. There are enough existing projects that need to be finished.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
The most important thing today and over the weekend is that you make sure that those you help are those who most deserve your help. It's a sad fact of life that some people are happy to live on others' efforts rather than their own.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You must not allow your personal feelings to interfere with what needs to be done on the work front today. Some things are business and some things are personal.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Someone in a position of authority may be annoying but you need to remember that they have more power than you. You will sometimes have to make it look as if you agree.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Although Venus is moving through one of the best areas of your chart you still need to be careful, especially when traveling and socializing. You may be confident that you can handle anything that comes your way but don't tempt fate.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If you make a small change in one thing today the effects are likely to be much bigger than you expected, so act with care and, if in doubt, don't act at all. Nothing is so important that it has to be dealt with immediately.

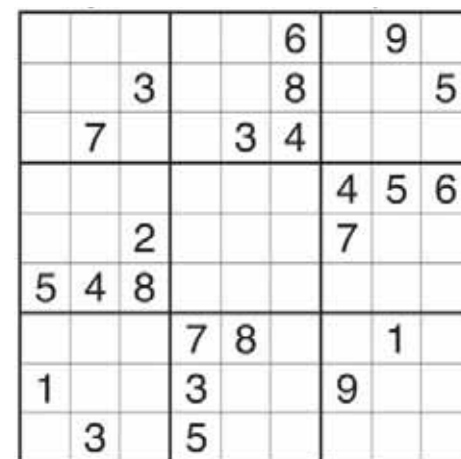
Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If life seems too complicated of late it is most likely because you are making it too complicated. How do you make it simpler? Do less — a lot less. Cut back to essentials.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The planets indicate you could fall for someone today or over the weekend who, to say the least, is not really suitable. Have a fling if you must but don't expect the relationship to last.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You may be able to do a particular task better than just about anyone, but that does not mean you should do it. You have more than enough on the go as it is at the moment, so don't add to your load. Colleagues must share the burden.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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